

case that they would need multiple round ammunition. In Springfield, Oregon on May 21, 1998, Kip Kinkel, 15, walked into Thurston High School with a 30-round clip. He killed two students and wounded 22 others before he had to stop and reload. It was only then that another student overtook him and stopped the shooting.

Mr. Chairman, it is interesting that there would be those who would argue that there is no need for this legislation inasmuch as who would be able to get such a clip and who would be able to use it violently and would they be a child under the age of 21 or 18?

On April 20, 1999 as we have so noted, Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, entered Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, armed with two shotguns, a rifle, and a TEC DC-9 assault pistol. They killed 15 people and wounded 22. After the massacre, Mark Manns, 22, turned himself in for illegally selling the TEC DC-9, a multiple round ammunition.

In September 1994, police pulled over a car in central Michigan and found three men inside wearing face paint and dressed in military fatigues. In the car's trunk, the police found an M-1 Garand and a MAC 90 assault weapon and an M-14 semiautomatic assault rifle. The men who were members of the Michigan Militia were arrested for possession of a loaded weapon in a car but nothing else could be done.

In January 1999, a 19-year-old man used an AK-47 assault rifle to kill an Oakland, California police officer. AK-47s are made in Eastern Europe, Russia and China. Henry K. Lee arrested in Oakland sniper slaying.

In 1996 two bank robbers armed with assault weapons and ammunition magazines holding 100 rounds each wounded 10 officers and two civilians.

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Finally, in December 1988, before the assault weapons ban, a man used an AK-47 assault weapon to fire 144 rounds in 2 minutes. Each round traveled at more than twice the speed of sound. That rifle uses a magazine that allows it to fire 100 rounds without reloading.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask, to ensure that we close a loophole that we failed to close just a few minutes ago, that we support this amendment, because I think each day we prolong this, we will be shocked by the number of children that, one, can get access to multiple round ammunition; but also, those who will die by multiple round ammunition.

This amendment incorporates Senator FEINSTEIN'S amendment to the Senate juvenile justice bill. It prohibits the importation of all feeding devices with a capacity of more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

Existing law prohibits the transfer and possession of "large capacity ammunition feeding devices." 18 U.S.C. §922(w). Current law excepts any such device lawfully possessed on or before the date of enactment of the 1994 crime bill, which was September 13,

1994—devices manufactured after that date must be approved for import.

This provision amends the definition of "large capacity ammunition feeding device" to delete the limitation to devices manufactured after September 13, 1994—all devices with a capacity of more than 10 rounds would be subject to the restrictions of the law. The proposal would retain, however, the existing "grandfather" exception in the law for devices lawfully possessed on or before the date of enactment.

In Springfield, Oregon, on May 21, 1998, Kip Kinkel (15) walked into Thurston High School with a 30-round clip. He killed two students and wounded 22 others before he had to stop and reload. It was only then that another student overtook him and stopped the shooting spree.

On April 20, 1999, Eric Harris (18) and Dylan Klebold (17) entered Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, armed with two shotguns, a rifle, a TEC-DC9 assault pistol. They killed 15 people and wounded 22. After the massacre, Mark Manns (22) turned himself in for illegally selling the TEC-DC9.

In September 1994, police pulled over a car in central Michigan and found three men inside wearing face paint and dressed in military fatigues. In the car's trunk, the police found an M-1 Garand, a MAC-90 assault rifle, and an M-14 semiautomatic assault rifle. The men, who were members of the Michigan Militia were arrested for possession of a loaded weapon in a car.

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In December 1988, before the assault weapon ban, a man used an AK-47, assault rifle to fire 144 rounds in two minutes. Each round traveled at more than twice the speed of sound. That rifle uses a magazine that allows it to fire 100 rounds without requiring reloading.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman from Colorado has 4 minutes remaining.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of the time remaining.

Mr. Chairman, by passing this amendment, we are taking a very important step toward keeping lethal weapons out of the hands of criminals and of children. There is no need for these magazine cartridges that carry dozens of bullets, the only purpose of which is to kill human beings and cause massive destruction. Congress was smart to ban their production 5 years ago, and it is now time to take the final step and close our borders to these killing machines. This is a vital, but only a part of the component to our comprehensive approach towards preventing youth violence by enacting moderate targeted child gun safety legislation.

As part of a more comprehensive package, banning multiple-round am-

munition cartridges will work, but unless we close the gun show loophole and unless we pass child safety locks on guns, this passage will not be complete, and we cannot send the message to our American families that Congress is doing everything it can to keep their children safe in the streets and in their schools.

So I thank again the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and I also thank my colleagues for working with me to pass this amendment, but only as part of a more comprehensive piece of legislation.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Chairman, I associate myself with the remarks of the distinguished gentlewoman from Colorado. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, I did want to briefly note that my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) has an idea that we are not yet ready to pursue and that we hope we will have an opportunity tomorrow, if we are able, to perfect this idea by unanimous consent to pursue it if it works out. I did not want to neglect that. We do not need to go into it now, but we will work diligently tomorrow morning. I thank the chairman for the opportunity.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for debate on this amendment has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider Amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 106-186.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to offer the amendment on behalf of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair would inform the gentlewoman that such a request is not in order. The rule provides that the amendment may be offered only by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) or his designee.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have asked, and I thought I had the response, to be the designee, and I am getting a "yes" from the other side that I have been asked to be the designee.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair is advised that the gentleman from Illinois has decided that Amendment No. 4 is not to be offered, and that he appoints no designee to offer the amendment.

It is now in order to consider Amendment No. 5.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman will state it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I see the gentleman has

walked off the floor of the House. It was my understanding, and I was told, that there was such designation made, and so my parliamentary inquiry is, who has withdrawn the designation? The Chair's response was there was no designee. I am here as a designee.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair was relayed a message from the gentleman from Illinois that he chose not to offer the amendment and has no designee to offer the amendment.

It is now in order to consider Amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 106-186.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman will state it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, at this time I would appeal the ruling of the Chair on the basis of whether or not I was so designated. The gentleman from Illinois is not here. This is an amendment dealing with guns in the hands of children, and I cannot imagine why the designation has been withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair would inform the gentlewoman that questions of recognition are not appealable.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the Chairman for his ruling. I am disappointed in not being able to discuss an amendment that would impact the lives of our children.

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider Amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 106-186.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. MCCOLLUM

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Part B Amendment No. 5 offered by Mr. MCCOLLUM:

At the end of the bill, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ PROHIBITING JUVENILES FROM POSSESSING SEMIAUTOMATIC ASSAULT WEAPONS.

Section 922(x) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "or" at the end of subparagraph (A);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(C) a semiautomatic assault weapon; or

"(D) a large capacity ammunition feeding device.";

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking "or" at the end of subparagraph (A);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting at the end the following:

"(C) a semiautomatic assault weapon; or

"(D) a large capacity ammunition feeding device."; and

(3) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

"(3) This subsection shall not apply to—

"(A) a temporary transfer of a handgun, ammunition, a large capacity ammunition

feeding device, or a semiautomatic assault weapon to a juvenile or to the temporary possession or use of a handgun, ammunition, a large capacity ammunition feeding device, or a semiautomatic assault weapon by a juvenile—

"(i) if the handgun, ammunition, large capacity ammunition feeding device, or semiautomatic assault weapon are possessed and used by the juvenile—

"(I) in the course of employment,

"(II) in the course of ranching or farming related to activities at the residence of the juvenile (or on property used for ranching or farming at which the juvenile, with the permission of the property owner or lessee, is performing activities related to the operation of the farm or ranch),

"(III) for target practice,

"(IV) for hunting, or

"(V) for a course of instruction in the safe and lawful use of a firearm;

"(ii) clause (i) shall apply only if the juvenile's possession and use of a handgun, ammunition, a large capacity ammunition feeding device, or a semiautomatic assault weapon under this subparagraph are in accordance with State and local law, and the following conditions are met—

"(I) except when a parent or guardian of the juvenile is in the immediate and supervisory presence of the juvenile, the juvenile shall have in the juvenile's possession at all times when a handgun, ammunition, a large capacity ammunition feeding device, or a semiautomatic assault weapon is in the possession of the juvenile, the prior written consent of the juvenile's parent or guardian who is not prohibited by Federal, State, or local law from possessing a firearm or ammunition; and

"(II)(aa) during transportation by the juvenile directly from the place of transfer to a place at which an activity described in clause (i) is to take place the firearm shall be unloaded and in a locked container or case, and during the transportation by the juvenile of that firearm, directly from the place at which such an activity took place to the transferor, the firearm shall also be unloaded and in a locked container or case; or

"(bb) with respect to employment, ranching or farming activities as described in clause (i), a juvenile may possess and use a handgun, ammunition, a large capacity ammunition feeding device, or a semiautomatic assault weapon with the prior written approval of the juvenile's parent or legal guardian, if such approval is on file with the adult who is not prohibited by Federal, State, or local law from possessing a firearm or ammunition and that person is directing the ranching or farming activities of the juvenile;

"(B) a juvenile who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard who possesses or is armed with a handgun, ammunition, a large capacity ammunition feeding device, or a semiautomatic assault weapon in the line of duty;

"(C) a transfer by inheritance of title (but not possession) of a handgun, ammunition, a large capacity ammunition feeding device, or a semiautomatic assault weapon to a juvenile; or

"(D) the possession of a handgun, ammunition, a large capacity ammunition feeding device, or a semiautomatic assault weapon taken in lawful defense of the juvenile or other persons in the residence of the juvenile or a residence in which the juvenile is an invited guest.

"(4) A handgun, ammunition, a large capacity ammunition feeding device, or a semiautomatic assault weapon, the possession of which is transferred to a juvenile in circumstances in which the transferor is not in

violation of this subsection, shall not be subject to permanent confiscation by the Government if its possession by the juvenile subsequently becomes unlawful because of the conduct of the juvenile, but shall be returned to the lawful owner when such handgun, ammunition, large capacity ammunition feeding device, or semiautomatic assault weapon is no longer required by the Government for the purposes of investigation or prosecution.

"(5) For purposes of this subsection, the term 'juvenile' means a person who is less than 18 years of age.

"(6)(A) In a prosecution of a violation of this subsection, the court shall require the presence of a juvenile defendant's parent or legal guardian at all proceedings.

(B) The court may use the contempt power to enforce subparagraph (A).

"(C) The court may excuse attendance of a parent or legal guardian of a juvenile defendant at a proceeding in a prosecution of a violation of this subsection for good cause shown.

"(7) For purposes of this subsection only, the term 'large capacity ammunition feeding device' has the same meaning as in section 921(a)(31) of title 18 and includes similar devices manufactured before the effective date of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994."

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House resolution 209, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) and a Member opposed each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM).

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think one of the things that we can all agree upon is that all Members here want to take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of our young people in the communities in which they live, play, and go to school. Our youth are America's finest resource. We have an obligation to protect this valuable national treasure. As a Congress, we may disagree on how to accomplish this objective; however, I know that we all agree that we are correctly focused on this objective today.

Mr. Chairman, under current law, juveniles are prohibited from possessing handguns except in limited situations where they are under adult supervision. But existing law does not prohibit juveniles from possessing semiautomatic assault weapons, whether there is an adult to supervise or not.

This is wrong. Limited, unfettered juvenile possession of semiautomatic assault weapons will help ensure that parents and children are free from the fear that these types of weapons will show up in school or on the playground or in the hands of other children.

Mr. Chairman, the amendment I offer today will prohibit juveniles from processing semiautomatic assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition clips. It will only permit juveniles to possess these weapons and clips under adult supervision under limited context, such as in connection with employment, ranching, or farming activities; for target practice, for courses of instruction in the proper use of firearms, and like activities.

My amendment also creates an exception for juveniles who serve in the

military, for use of such a weapon in self-defense, or for taking legal title, but not physical possession, of the weapon through inheritance. These exceptions are those that apply under the current law to the prohibition on juveniles possessing handguns.

Mr. Chairman, I believe it is reasonable to prohibit juveniles from possessing these weapons. My amendment does just that. My amendment will make our young people safer, it will make our schools safer, it will make a lot of people feel a lot more comfortable.

Again, I want to remind my colleagues that Congress needs to do everything possible to protect our finest resource, America's young people. I believe that this amendment strikes the right balance, and I urge my colleagues to adopt it and join me in passing it.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 0150

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 15 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am very much concerned as we move through this process that there will be elements where we could come together in a bipartisan manner that we might not utilize.

This amendment, however, is important. I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for offering this amendment, as would have many Democrats who would have joined in the offering of such amendment because it is important to keep the semi-automatic assault weapons out of the hands of children.

This amendment would make it unlawful for juveniles under the age of 18 to possess semi-automatic assault weapons and large-capacity feeding devices. It would also make it unlawful for any person to transfer such weapons and devices to juveniles.

We need not be reminded of the horror and damage that automatic weapons, assault weapons, can cause. In fact, one of the most important acts of this Congress was the ban on assault weapons.

I support this amendment, and I am glad that it has been offered. I hope, as well, that we will be able to come together in supporting the Democratic substitute. It is well known that the automatic weapons have no purpose, if you will, in the hands of children.

A Virginia inmate survey showed that 20 percent of juvenile offenders had possessed an assault rifle and 1 percent carried it at the scene of a crime.

A Shelley and Wright survey showed that 35 percent of juvenile offenders owned automatic or semi-automatic rifles just prior to commitment.

One gun used in the Littleton, Colorado massacre was apparently a TEC-9, an infamous assault weapon. How often have we heard from the parents of that community, asking us to do something? So many of us tonight wear a ribbon in their memory.

Two of these TEC-9 semi-automatic assault weapons were also used in the 1993 massacre at a San Francisco law firm in which eight people died and six were wounded.

Byrl Phillips Taylor testified before the Committee on the Judiciary in May. These are her own words about the shooting of her son by a classmate with a semi-automatic assault weapon.

Ten years ago my son Scott had just graduated from high school. He was about to start Virginia Tech college, and to put it simply, he was the light of my life and my best friend. Scott was the son that every mother wants, popular, good at school, always good-humored, never in trouble.

But there was a boy in his school that didn't like him. During the summer this boy found where Scott was working and got a job there. He lured Scott into the woods and shot him six times with an AK-47 assault rifle that was taken from an unlocked gun storage shed. The first shot was in the back and the last was an execution style shot to the head. Scott Phillips didn't have a chance.

I cannot say it any better, Mr. Chairman. I say to those who have called so many of my colleagues' telephones and E-mailed and faxed, I say in particular to the National Rifle Association that I think reasonable men and women can stand together on behalf of Byrl Phillips Taylor's son, who died at the hands of an assault weapon, a semi-automatic assault weapon.

Her son is one of the many children that have suffered at the hands of these guns. I think it is extremely important that we make a statement tonight that is effective and that is important that children under the age of 18 not be able to have access to these guns. This will increase, I think, the ability for us to save lives, and I would hope my colleagues would consider this in their deliberations.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, I hope they consider the pages and pages and pages of children who have died at the hands of guns.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would make it unlawful for juveniles (under the age of 18) to possess semiautomatic assault weapons a large capacity ammunition feeding devices. It would also make it unlawful for any person to transfer such weapons and devices to juveniles.

I support this amendment. I am glad that the gentleman from Illinois supports this provision from the Senate bill and I hope he will support the rest of the Senate bill by voting for the Democratic substitute.

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I can't say it better. Let's pass this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, I think an effort to remove the lawful ability of juveniles to possess assault weapons is an important thing for this Congress to do. I think that it is a very strange world we live in where a 17-year-old cannot vote, cannot go drink a beer, but can have an assault weapon. That to me does not make any kind of sense at all.

So when I saw this amendment being offered, the title of the amendment, I was very enthused about the opportunity. However, I must confess that I oppose the amendment as it is drafted, because as one reads through this amendment, the loopholes included are large enough to drive a truckload of assault weapons right through them.

If Members look at page 2, line 6, the subsection outlawing assault weapons, semi-automatic assault weapons, as well as large-capacity ammunition feeding devices, does not apply in a whole series of sections.

One is in the course of employment, and that is not defined, but tell me what kind of employment requires a 16-year-old to use and possess an assault weapon?

Further, there is a specific delineation that it is legal for a juvenile, anyone under 18, so I guess this could be 9, 7, 8, it is not clear, to possess an assault weapon in the course of ranching or farming.

I know there are kids in my district who ranch, who have to have rifles. There are rattlesnakes and there are wild boar out in those hills. I understand that the ranchers need to have arms to be protected. I do not object to that in any fashion whatsoever.

However, I do not know of a situation where little kids need to have assault weapons because their family has a farm.

Further, if the child wants to use an assault weapon for target practice, hunting, or several other things, then it is lawful for them to have the assault weapon. I do not think this is control of assault weapons.

I do not think that the provisions of this act will do anything effective to prevent juveniles from owning and possessing assault weapons. I think that is a shame. Therefore, I would urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. I think that if anything, it goes in the opposite direction and specifically authorizes children to possess assault weapons. I think that is a preposterous situation, and would urge opposition.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, earlier this evening we heard the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) in a very eloquent entreaty to this House asking us to do something right. But she also said something else to us, that this is not the end, it is only the beginning. We are not finished, there is much more to be done.

That amendment on gun show loopholes was, unfortunately, not passed. This amendment in fact could go further. It is well known that much of the crime in the use of guns falls between the ages of 18 to 20. A recent report issued by the Department of the Treasury and the Justice Department shows that persons in the age group of 18 to 20 account for the highest number of gun homicides, the highest rate of gun use and nonlethal gun crimes, and the highest number of crime gun possessors when compared to other age groups.

The report concludes that the high rate of gun crime in the 18 to 20 age group is linked with easy access to firearms. Prohibiting the ownership of automatic assault weapons and guns with automatic feeding devices for persons under 21 will help reduce gun crimes committed by persons in the age group 18 to 20.

We have just begun. There is a lot more work that could be done on this. In fact, Mr. Chairman, I would argue that the amendments that Democrats had that were not made in order would have made this whole discussion and the remedies much better. The amendment that I had to prohibit young people from going into gun shows without adults was not allowed.

But since we have to start somewhere, I believe it is important that we join and support this amendment that prohibits juvenile possession of semi-automatic assault weapons for individuals under the age of 18.

□ 0200

Maybe my colleagues will see the value of their work and move it up to ages higher than that. Maybe they will see the value of their work and close the loopholes that have been noted by my colleague from California, but at this time I would ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment.

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I will not consume very much.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to recapitulate what this amendment is about. It is a very straightforward, very simple amendment. There are not any loopholes in it, with all due respect to my colleagues who may think there are.

It deals with conforming the law with respect to these long guns that are labeled under the law, whatever one's views on whether they should be or not, assault weapons, with the laws that exist today with respect to juveniles and handguns.

The reality is that the law a few years ago defines assault weapons made and imported and whatnot after a certain year, I think it was 1994, for everybody. But for those that existed and do exist pre-1994, I think, or the year in which that ban occurred, there is still a lawful possession of those weapons for any of those that anybody may have owned.

Yet, there is a loophole that exists in current law with regard to minors. They are allowed to possess these weapons. So consequently, it is my desire and what this amendment does I think pretty clearly is make it clear that there is going to be, if this is adopted, absolutely no opportunity for youngsters to possess, use or otherwise have in their possession any of these pre-1994 pre-banned weapons that may be around, unless there is the same adult supervision or under the same conditions that that youngster might possess a handgun.

Those are very restrictive conditions under the current law on handguns.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. McCOLLUM. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. McCOLLUM), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, when I found the amendment I did go read through the statutory scheme and I could see very clearly that the gentleman was conforming this amendment to the scheme that he has just referenced.

The question I have is whether or not assault weapons should not be treated a little bit differently than rifles? And as I mentioned earlier, 17-year-olds out on the ranch out in the Mount Hamilton range where the wild boars and rattlesnakes are, and they are out in the pickup trucks with the cattle with the rifle, and to me that is a lot different than having a semiautomatic assault weapon.

So the question is, did the gentleman mean to make assault weapons really in the same posture and standing as rifles on the farm?

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, if I could reclaim my time, I would simply say to the gentlewoman that a regular rifle that does not fit this definition,

even after this amendment is passed and under current law, can be possessed by a juvenile without the same restrictions that there are on handguns. The law is not going to change with regard to that. With regard to these peculiar weapons, the adult supervision will be required. Maybe the gentlewoman, as she says, thinks the child should not be able to possess this peculiar set of weapons even if there is adult supervision. I understand that concern. However, we could redebate, I suppose, that old assault weapon debate all over again.

My point, if I could just make the point, is that all of these weapons that we are talking about, all this category of rifles have the same functional characteristics, the same firepower, the same killing power, whatever we want to call it, whatever we label them. It is just that this particular category of weapon has been perceived by some having characteristics of a certain type of stock and so forth to not be one that certainly children should have in their possession, because they are glamorized so much by so many people who use these weapons in very bad ways.

So I think that the gentlewoman and I probably agree on one point, and that is that children, certainly without supervision, should not be touching these weapons, but I think the gentlewoman would just like to go further than I do in some manner in this amendment, but I would not think the gentlewoman would have any problem with the amendment because I can assure her that the amendment does not in any way create additional loopholes to current law. It is just restrictive. It is not in any way expansive.

I simply want to be sure, if we have a disagreement, we understand what we are disagreeing over.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. McCOLLUM. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I think we do disagree, but if the gentleman's point is that right now children can lawfully possess assault weapons, without any restrictions and therefore this is better because they can have assault weapons if they are farmers or if they are employed they could have an assault weapon, is that essentially the point that the gentleman is making?

Mr. McCOLLUM. That is the point I am making. They can have these weapons under the conditions that they could have a handgun. That is my point.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, then I do object.

Mr. McCOLLUM. There is absolutely no restriction right now whatsoever.

Ms. LOFGREN. We do very much disagree, and I thank the gentleman for yielding for this question.

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I think the point is well made and I think the bill is very self-explanatory.